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Tackling social and economic disparities in Europe

Also: EEA Grants & Norway, European Social Fund Plus, the Dutch Recovery & Resilience Plan and the Italian National Programme for Equality in Health



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Letter From the Editors

A year has passed since the security landscape in Europe drastically changed and during this year the continent had to re-evaluate its perspective on defence, energy, and foreign relations. While the question of security has become urgent, so have the intertwined challenges of how to achieve social justice and wellbeing for all.

Our 2023 Spring issue of FUNDED is about ‘social regeneration,’ namely, the many different ways to make society fairer and more inclusive. The authors examine how each region has set forth different paths to reform society and realize their potential.

In our cover article Marie Christine Noujaim sheds light on financial measures for French companies in hardship.

The Covid-19 pandemic and other recent global events have increased poverty levels and inequality in Europe overall, so Vanessa Del Pozo Sánchez examines the EEA and Norway grants under the lens of social equity and introduces us to their latest calls. Providing another perspective to this issue, Gregory Clare accounts for the impact of working remotely and the effect it has had on parents and caregivers, focusing on the importance of a supportive welfare system.

Adding to these articles on social change and regeneration, Adele Lebano tackles the inclusion of refugees and the economically disadvantaged, and Charlotte von der Brellie explores funding schemes for asylum seekers and SMEs, both impacted by war and international unrest.

We hope our focus on ‘social regeneration’ in this issue helps our readers better understand the different societal challenges being addressed through different funding programs. As stated by the Italian Cariplo Foundation, “Inequalities are not simply unfair for the person who suffer them but prevent the healthy development of communities and the flourishing of society at large.”

As always, our objective is to provide a broad context to the various grant funding programmes available across Europe, and in this specific issue, we have focused on the Recovery and Resilience Facility as it pertains to the Netherlands, the Italian National Programme for Equality in Health, the ESF+ and Austrian grant that promotes health at the workplace.

Kind regards,

Adele Lebano and Charlotte von der Brellie

Editors,
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L'essor du financement des entreprises de l'économie sociale et solidaire (ESS) en France : fondements et actualités

Marie-Christine Noujaim

The Social Solidarity Economy (SSE) has taken on a very important dimension in the current global context. Marie-Christine Noujaim's article focuses on the origin and definition of Social Solidarity Economy (SSE) and sheds lights on the flagship funding measures deployed in France to support national SSE companies.

Dans un contexte mondial frappé par des crises multiples, des pandémies au dérèglement climatique, en passant par les crises socio-économiques et les escalades de conflits géopolitiques, la notion d'économie sociale et solidaire (ESS) revêt une dimension très importante. Le bilan des conséquences de ces bouleversements continue de s'alourdir chaque jour et n'épargne pas les entreprises en France et plus généralement en Europe et dans le monde.

Caractérisée par une approche éthique et morale fondée sur la solidarité et l'utilité sociale appliquée au milieu de l'entreprise, l'ESS est un mode d'entreprendre et de développement économique adapté à l'ensemble des domaines de l'activité humaine auquel les entreprises choisissent d'adhérer moyennant le respect de certaines conditions (LOI n° 2014-856 du 31 juillet 2014 relative à l'économie sociale et solidaire, Légifrance ; Décret n° 2015-858 du 13 juillet 2015). L'ESS regroupe donc les entreprises qui fonctionnent de manière démocratique et dont l'usage des bénéfices vise le maintien ou le développement des structures concernées. À partir d'une approche informative du contexte français autour de la notion de l'ESS, cette contribution vise à poser des axes de réflexion sur la place que prend le concept de l'ESS à l'heure de la post-reliance et de la résilience. Pour ce faire, nous mettrons la lumière sur les principaux financements dédiés aux projets des entreprises de l'ESS et nous nous appuyerons sur des exemples concrets de mesures d'accompagnement déployées à l'échelle nationale.

ORIGINE ET DÉFINITION DU CONCEPT DE L'ESS DANS LE CONTEXTE FRANÇAIS

L'ESS n'est pas un phénomène récent dépourvu d'histoire : elle est l'héritière d'une longue tradition militante d'entrepreneuriat humaniste et innovant (Draperi, 2007). L'organisation française Le Labo de l'ESS nous rappelle que l'ESS est née à partir de la synthèse de deux concepts. D'une part, nous avons l'économie sociale qui se définit par les statuts des structures qui la composent. Il s'agit souvent d'associations, de coopératives, de mutuelles et de fondations qui défendent la priorité de l'homme sur le capital et impliquent une gestion collective des organisations. D'une autre part, nous avons l'économie solidaire qui est née dans les années 1970 pour répondre aux nouveaux besoins des populations touchées notamment par le chômage et l'exclusion sociale et qui rassemble les organisations dont l'objectif premier est l'utilité sociale.

En France, nous comptons cinq familles spécifiques de l'ESS, à savoir les associations de la loi 1901, les fondations de personnes ou d'entreprises, les mutuelles à but non lucratif, les coopératives et les entreprises commerciales d'utilité sociale respectant les principes de l'ESS et ayant une finalité sociale et prioritaire par rapport à leurs objectifs économiques. En novembre 2018, un pacte de croissance pour l'économie sociale et solidaire a été annoncé par le gouvernement français pour favoriser les entreprises de l'ESS, notamment via la commande publique.

TOUR D'HORIZON DES PRINCIPALES AIDES FINANCIÈRES EN FAVEUR DES PROJETS DES ENTREPRISES DE L'ESS

En ces temps troublés, les aides financières en faveur des entreprises de l'ESS s'enchaînent et rythment les débats nationaux. En effet, il existe même des organismes et mesures qui leur sont totalement dédiés.

Les Régions de France soutiennent fortement les entreprises de l'ESS. Parmi les aides financières régionales fléchées vers ce type de structure, on peut recenser, à titre d'exemple, l'appel à projets « Fabriques à projets d'utilité sociale » opéré par la Région Grand Est. Il s'agit d'une aide globale de 105 000 € maximum, soit 35 000 € maximum par an, dans la limite de 3 ans de financement, pour accompagner l'émergence de projets d'utilité sociale. En Île-de-France, le dispositif invESS soutient les structures de l'économie sociale et solidaire à fort potentiel en phase de post-création, de développement ou de transmission qui ont un besoin en fonds propres et quasi-fonds propres. Le montant de l'investissement est compris entre 100 000 € et 300 000 €.

Au niveau national, des prêts sont accordés aux entreprises de l'ESS. Les opérateurs les plus connus de ces prêts sont France Active qui accorde des prêts solidaires aux entrepreneurs engagés, l'Adie qui permet aux porteurs de projets qui n'ont pas accès au crédit bancaire de lancer et de développer leurs activités et le Réseau Entreprendre qui octroie des prêts d'honneurs aux entrepreneurs créateurs d'emplois sur leur territoire. En outre, les plateformes de financement participatif « crowdfunding » mettent en relation les demandeurs d'aides avec des financeurs qui agissent soit dans une démarche philanthropique, soit pour en retirer un revenu (Bpifrance, 2021).

En plus des aides financières, les entreprises de l'ESS peuvent être accompagnées et soutenues par un bon nombre de fondations nationales. La Fondation Crédit Coopératif a notamment pour mission d'accompagner les grandes transitions de l'ESS et de faire vivre des valeurs coopératives. La Fondation Macif soutient quant à elle des projets qui apportent des réponses à des besoins sociaux axés principalement sur les quatre thématiques en lien avec les métiers de son fondateur, à savoir la mobilité, la santé, l'habitat et la finance solidaire.

La crise liée à la pandémie de Covid-19 a été à la fois un révélateur et un accélérateur des problématiques économiques et sociales en France. Le plan national France Relance, financé à 40% par l'Union européenne via NextGenerationEU, a suscité, depuis 2020, l'espoir de renforcer le soutien aux entreprises, notamment aux entreprises de l'ESS, et de soutenir une croissance qui doit être conduite de manière équitable en ne laissant personne de côté.

Si les nombreuses mesures déployées actuellement à l'échelle nationale offrent une bonne base de départ pour favoriser les projets des entreprises de l'ESS, le succès de celles-là ne pourrait être chiffré que par le recensement des projets qui seront réellement concrétisés grâce à ce soutien massif.

En poursuivant ses actions dans cette direction, la France ne peut que gagner à tous les niveaux : l'ESS représente, approximativement, 10 % du PIB national et près de 14 % des emplois privés en France. Ce secteur compte sur le territoire national environ 200 000 entreprises et structures et 2,38 millions de salariés et constitue, par conséquent, un acteur économique de poids. Olivia Grégoire, actuellement Ministre déléguée chargée des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises, du Commerce, de l'Artisanat et du Tourisme et anciennement Secrétaire d'État chargée de l'Économie sociale, solidaire et responsable auprès du ministre de l'Économie, des Finances et de la Relance, a dit en 2021 que « les fondamentaux de l'économie sociale et solidaire, à savoir solidarité, responsabilité individuelle et collective, et gouvernance plus démocratique, sont des valeurs adoptées par de plus en plus d'entreprises dites traditionnelles ».

Encore une fois, il reste à voir si cette observation positive et les ambitions des mesures mentionnées dans notre article risqueraient de se heurter à la série noire de crises multiples géopolitiques, économiques, financières et climatiques qui rythment hélas notre « nouveau » monde post-Covid.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Marie-Christine Noujaim is the Lead Grants Development Consultant for France at Grants Office Europe. She graduated with a Master of Research in Management in 2016. She was then enrolled in a PhD program at Université Bourgogne Franche-Comté; her thesis was entitled "The practice of diversity in companies: a quest for efficiency or legitimacy?". She has participated in several EU-funded projects and has spoken at international webinars, including the TandEM webinar "Empowering Youth as agents of integration and social cohesion" and the Grants Office Europe webinar on France's recovery plan "France Relance".

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EEA Grants and Norway Grants reduce social and economic disparities within Europe

Vanessa Del Pozo Sánchez

To achieve EU cohesion, grants from the European Economic Area (EEA) and Norway are exemplary of how subsidies can be used to develop projects that achieve social equity, as well as a way to redistribute wealth and opportunities in a more equitable way; and strengthen bilateral relations

The EEA Grants provided by Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway are intended for countries located in central and southern Europe. Their investments cover a wide range of areas, such as innovation, education, youth employment, environmental protection, and good governance.

A financial instrument preceded the grants, which are administered by the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO), and they are based on the EEA Agreement, which allows these countries to participate in the European Single Market (ESM). A key responsibility of the FMO is to make sure the funds are used in accordance with the agreed-upon objectives and projects are implemented efficiently and effectively. From project design to implementation, monitoring, and evaluation, the FMO provides technical assistance and guidance to beneficiary countries.

Moreover, by supporting the internal market, the grants can help to create a more cohesive and integrated Europe, reducing disparities between countries and regions and promoting a more balanced and prosperous economic environment, as well as achieving the objectives of the Europe 2020 strategy of smart, sustainable, and inclusive growth.

With 2.8 billion euros to be provided in the coming years, Iceland, Liechtenstein, and Norway will continue to invest in people through the EEA and Norway grants. These efforts can help support social regeneration and promote a green, competitive, and inclusive Europe.

Currently EEA Grants are allocated to 15 countries in Europe – Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Hungary*, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Portugal,



Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia. Due to changing needs and circumstances, the list of eligible countries has changed since the program began.

To ensure that the EEA and Norway Grants do not duplicate initiatives or projects that receive EU structural funds or other types of EU funding, the European Commission is consulted during the negotiations between donor and beneficiary states. The various support schemes should complement each other and be employed as efficiently as possible rather than duplicating one another. In some cases, EEA Grants and Norway Grants are used to fund activities that are not covered by EU or national funding.

Programme operators in the beneficiary states — often ministries or other public institutions with national responsibility for a policy area — are charged with bringing their programmes to fruition. As a general rule, project funds are allocated through calls for proposals. Applicant organisations may be private or public, commercial or non-commercial, or voluntary. Projects may have a donor country partner, but do not need one.

Beneficiary states' programme operators - usually ministries or other institutions with national responsibility - are responsible for implementing their programmes. Calls for proposals are generally the method of allocating funds for projects. Applications can be submitted by private or public organizations, as well as for non-profit or commercial organizations. Partnering with a donor country is not required, but it is possible.

IMPACT OF THE PROGRAMME (2014-2021)

The programme distributes funds to sectors and areas that complement the EU's wider development strategies to maximize the equalising effect of the EEA and Norway Grants on social and economic conditions across Europe. It also emphasizes the priority areas of Norway's European policy as well as potential cooperation opportunities or interests. For social and economic disparities to be reduced, good governance, fundamental rights, and democracy must be in place. It is therefore essential to pay attention to activities involving minorities, vulnerable groups, gender equality, and children and youth at risk.

Over the last seven years (2014-2021), 97 programmes have been launched to support 5,968 projects that have integrated 693 bilateral initiatives and helped reduce social and economic disparities, creating 1.8 K jobs.

By 6 January 2023, more than 5 800 projects had received funding, an increase that is forecast to continue given that the period will now last until April 2024. With 37% of all projects now involving a donor country as a partner, the trend of greater cooperation between donor and beneficiary countries appears to be continuing. Over this period, the Financial Mechanism Office (FMO) hired more than 70 employees to continue monitoring and managing grants based on results.

EXAMPLES OF OPEN CALLS FOR THIS YEAR

[CZ-ACTIVECITIZENS: Ongoing call 4: Improving digital knowledge and skills and wider using of digital technologies and tools of CSOs](#)

With this call, 151,000 Euros are available for non-profit organizations from the Czech Republic to apply for grants aimed at improving their digital knowledge and skills as well as using digital tools and technologies for their activities and organization operations. Their project costs range from € 1,000 to € 3,000.

Deadline: May 31, 2023.

[PT-ACTIVECITIZENS: Supporting activities aiming at enhancing bilateral relations between Portuguese NGOs and entities in Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway](#)

This call provides 90,000 Euros to non-profit organizations in Portugal to support activities aimed at strengthening relations between Portuguese NGOs and entities in the donor countries. The priority areas of Bilateral Cooperation Initiatives include building capacity in advocacy and public policy watchdog, fundraising and diversifying funding sources, and managing volunteers, as well as promoting gender equality and combating gender discrimination.

Deadline: 12 July 2018 to 30 June 2023

[SK-DOMESTIC: Open Call for bilateral initiatives between Slovakia and Norway in the field of Domestic and Gender-based Violence \(DGVBF04\)](#)

There is a budget of 95,126 Euros allocated to this call for strengthening bilateral relations between Norway and Slovakia through networking, exchanges, sharing, and transfer of knowledge, technology, experience, and best practices between Slovakian and Norwegian organisations that deal with domestic violence and gender inequality.

Deadline: 20 December 2022 to 20 December 2023

These are just a few examples, but in general these grants can support social regeneration projects in across different interests and sectors, funding projects that aim to improve access to healthcare, education, and social services, or that promote social inclusion and integration of marginalized groups. They can also support initiatives that address environmental and climate-related challenges, as well as projects that promote sustainable economic development and job creation.

Overall, the EEA Norway Grants provide a valuable source of funding for initiatives that seek to promote social regeneration and address the economic and social challenges faced by many communities in Central and Southern Europe, achieving a better redistribution of assets and a stronger cohesion of the EU.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Vanessa Del Pozo Sánchez is a grants consultant for Grants Office Europe. Driven by reason, analysis, and the disposition to help others, she takes pride in producing plausible solutions for a broad range of problems, all as part of a system of human cooperation. As part of the team of Grants Office, her goals include support to public and private entities in their search for grants for high-tech projects in Spain.

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Social regeneration through the integration of all vulnerable people: Examples of Intergovernmental and Private Foundation Programs

Adele Lebano

In a time of climate crisis, war, pandemic, and economic hardships, action of social regeneration cannot draw lines between native and foreigners, or early and late comers. Yet, European and global political discourse suggests they most often do, especially when resources are scarce, and uncertainty is widespread. It also suggests that we often perceive as more dangerous what is closer to us in space or time, rather than what constitutes the biggest threat. This is consistent with what political science and economics show to be the limits constraining our capacity to reason and act, and what is diverting our attention from what should matter most. Were this not the case, we would probably invest more public discussions and money into finding solutions to address the climate emergency and accommodate refugees that are the effect of this and other emergencies.

A recent tragedy saw the death of at least 73 people, shipwrecked off the coast of Calabria, in the South of Italy, some of whom were Kurds from Iran, persecuted by the regime. Only a few weeks earlier, countless demonstrations of solidarity towards Iranian women were posted on social media. The same population of women that were earlier supported in those social media posts were those who perished while trying to find safety on our shores.

The limits of reason and the tendency to fear what is close may have something to do with what was just described, together with the tendency to empathize less with those who are not part of our closer circle of family, friends, citizens. People of Italian background with lower socio-economic status and migrants in need for resettling have more in common than either acknowledge.

There are both European and national level funding schemes aimed at promoting inclusion, cohesion, and integration of migrants. The European Calls of **AMIF, the Asylum, Migration and Integration Program** is one of those schemes. On 17 January 2023, a budget of 40,000,000 euros, distributed through [6 single-stage calls](#), opened and will close on the 16th of May. The aim of this program is to integrate migrant children and young adults through education and work, while also promoting measures for protecting children in migration.

Concerning the national landscape, and in particular that of private foundations, the Italian **Fondazione Cariplo** is particularly active with regards to poverty alleviation and support of vulnerable people. Since 2021 in the **Region of Lombardy** and in the **province of Novara and of Verbano-Cusio-Ossola** in the **Region of Piedmont**, Cariplo, together with another foundation, **Fondazione Peppino Vismara**, and the **Charity Fund of the Italian Bank Intesa Sanpaolo**, has made over 11 million euro available to public-private partnerships in support of families with young children in need. The initiative aims to support those impacted by food and housing insecurities and increase work opportunities.

The fight against poverty and in defense of minors at risk of social exclusion is also Fondazione Cariplo's strategic goal for 2023. This goal overlaps with that of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, which has social cohesion as both the 5th ([Inclusion and Social Cohesion](#)) and is a crosscutting priority.

Community actions for integration, culture, and the environment in the province of Pavia, funded with 8,000,000 euro in 2022, is one of the so-called [emblematic projects promoted](#) by Fondazione Cariplo with the support of Regione Lombardia.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

As one of the Grants Development Consultants for Italy at Grants Office Europe, Adele Lebano has gained a rich experience through her former positions in academia, business, and the public sector across a variety of European countries and the United States. Her passion for rigorous research, effective communication, freedom, equality, and inclusion are evident throughout her writing and consulting.

EU Programme Snapshot

European Social Fund Plus (ESF+)



SUMMARY

The European Social Fund + (ESF+) is the European Union (EU)'s main instrument for investing in people.

With a budget of almost €99.3 billion for the period 2021-2027, the ESF+ provides an important contribution to the EU's employment, social, education and skills policies, including structural reforms in these areas.

Support under the ESF+ is mainly managed by the EU Member States, with the European Commission playing a supervisory role.

Funding therefore takes place through:

- [The shared management strand](#) - implemented by Member States in partnership with the Commission. These resources have a budget of roughly EUR 98.5 billion for the programming period 2021-2027 ;
- [The Employment and Social Innovation \(EaSI\) Strand](#) - implemented by the Commission with a budget of close to € 762 million for 2021-2027.

*The EU Member States are: Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Republic of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Sweden.

ELIGIBILITY

The ESF+ finances the implementation of the principles from the [European Pillar for Social Rights](#) and focuses on a number of priority areas, including:

- supporting young people who have been particularly affected by the socioeconomic crisis triggered by the COVID-19 pandemic by providing resources to help them get a qualification, a quality job and improve their education and skills;
- helping children in need by allocating resources to targeted actions aimed at combating child poverty and supporting the most vulnerable in society suffering from job losses and income reductions, including with the provision of food and basic material assistance to the most deprived;
- reskilling and upskilling people for the transition to a green and digital economy and improving the quality of education and training systems;
- promoting gender equality, equal opportunities and non-discrimination;
- building capacity for social partners and civil-society organisations;
- promoting social innovation across the EU through transnational cooperation;
- providing direct support to social innovation through the EaSI strand.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://ec.europa.eu/european-social-fund-plus/en>

Grant support for Ukrainian refugees and companies

Charlotte von der Brelie

The economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated the difficulties of two parts of society that otherwise seem to not have much in common – refugees and companies. As a result, various organizations have come forward to provide financial support in the form of grants and tenders. In this article, we will explore the current grants and tenders in Germany that support refugees and companies in navigating the ongoing crisis.

In Germany, the federal government, as well as local and regional organizations, offer various grants and tenders for refugees to help them integrate into society and find employment. One notable example is the “Integration through Qualification” (IQ) program, which provides refugees with the necessary qualifications and skills to participate in the labor market. The program is administered by the Federal Ministry for Migrations and Refugees, with the help of the Ministry for Education and Research and the Federal Employment Agency but is implemented by each state. With the new year, a new funding round started, notably supported by the European Social Fund Plus.

In addition, there is also funding available to support the civil society, volunteers and their organisations. Furthermore, the Asylum, Migration, and Integration Fund of the European Union, that runs from 2021 to 2027, also strongly supports EU member states in implementing their asylum and migration policies. The fund is focused on solidarity between member states, irregular migration, legal migration, and integration in Europe. Also, the EhAP Plus Programme aims to help against the exclusion of the most disadvantaged people, as a tender via the Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs. The same ministry also put forward the Win-Win program, that aims at support access to education, training, and social services for young men with a migration background.

The Federal Employment Agency provides multiple measure to integrate refugees into the labor market, including language courses. The Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF) provides funding for integration projects, sport measures and more. The Federal Ministry of the Interior supports projects that enhance social cohesion in cities and communities, and in combination with the ministry for family affairs also provides integration courses with accompanied childcare. Further, each state also has its own funding programs to support integration.



There are over 20.000 foundations under civil law in Germany, with 70% of them primarily engaging regionally and locally and many of them supporting projects for integration and / or refugees. These foundations offer support on the 1:1 basis that the state is heavily relying on, and that is also supported by smaller regional programs.

Given the ongoing economic uncertainty, it is expected that the demand for grants and tenders will remain high in the coming year. However, it is also important to note that the availability of funds may be impacted by budget constraints and changes in government priorities. Despite these uncertainties, it is anticipated that the federal and state governments in Germany will continue to support refugees and companies through grants and tenders. However, one obstacle for those that are supposedly the beneficiaries of these grant programs is the excessive bureaucracy associated with it, in particular the paperwork and the necessary understanding of the German public financing system. In particular, for people who don't speak German or who speak very little English these processes remain unnecessarily complex.

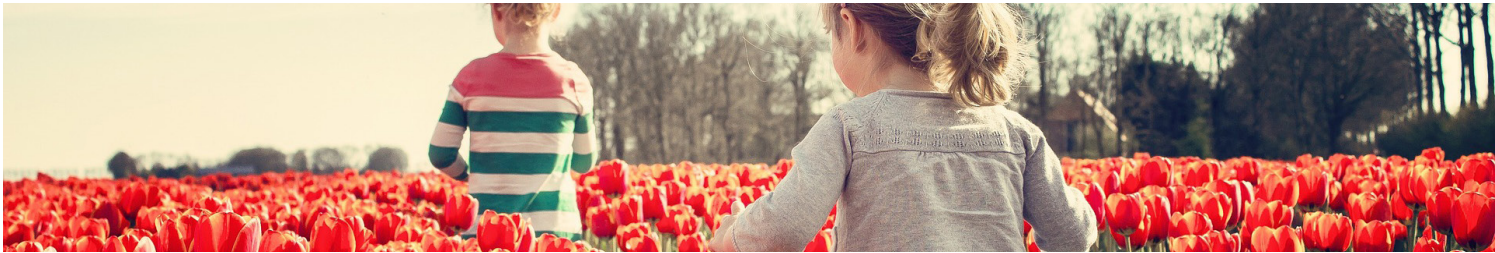
The current crisis has created many challenges for refugees and companies in Germany, but various grants and tenders are available to help them navigate these difficulties. From the “Integration through Qualification” program for refugees to the AMIF programmes for EU countries, there is a wide range of financial support available. Despite the ongoing economic uncertainty, and unnecessary bureaucratic burden, grants remain an important tool in the management of crisis that impact a specific group of the population.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Charlotte von der Brelie studied International Relations and International Political Economy, with a strong background in OSINT she now focuses those skills on grants, tenders and public procurement.

Recovery Plans around the EU: Spotlight on The Netherlands

Gregory Clare



The Netherlands submitted its Recovery & Resiliency Plan (RRF) to the European Commission on July 8, 2022, later than other countries. The plan, worth €4.7 billion, consists of 49 measures, 21 of which are reforms and 28 are investment plans. The investments complement measures financed under the EU Cohesion Fund (€ 2 billion) resulting in a total budget of €6.7 billion. It will be effective from February 2020 until the formal end date of resources from the fund, August 2026.

The budget is relatively small compared to the size of the Dutch economy. Additionally, some of the measures included in the plan may have the potential to cancel each other out. For instance, while an increase in government spending and housing investments may stimulate economic activity, tax increases could have the opposite effect.

The European Commission evaluated the Dutch plan according to the criteria outlined in the RRF Regulation (EU Regulation 2021/241). This evaluation was based on whether the planned investments and reforms support the green and digital transition, address the challenges of the European semester, and promote the growth potential, employment, and economic and social resilience of the Netherlands.

The Dutch RRF has six priorities, namely:

1. Transitioning to a green economy and reducing nitrogen emissions
2. Accelerating digital transformation
3. Improving the housing market and promoting sustainable building practices
4. Strengthening the labour market, promoting good pensions, and offering future-oriented education
5. Enhancing public health and pandemic preparedness
6. Combating tax evasion and money laundering

Disbursement of the €4.7 billion is performance-based and dependent on the achievement of 127 milestones and targets. The Netherlands will likely receive the first instalment of #1.4 billion in June 2023, after completing 26 milestones and seven targets. At the time of submission, the Netherlands had already achieved 13 milestones. Which is surprising, as the Netherlands was actively lobbying against using existing reforms in the RRF plan.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gregory Clare is one of the senior Grants Development Consultants at Grants Office Europe. His area of expertise is the funding landscape in the Netherlands and the EU, with a particular focus on digitalisation processes in education and the developing labour market. As a former grant writer and fundraiser in the Lebanese, Syrian and Turkish context, he is also adept to developing compelling projects for non-profit organisations seeking European funding. His spare time is filled with as much sports as possible and he claims to be an expert on European film.

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Snapshot: Austria



The [Betriebliche Gesundheitsförderung \(BGF\) – Gesundheitliche Chancengerechtigkeit am Arbeitsplatz](#) is a successful concept that focuses on promoting health in the workplace. It is a participatory process in which all workplace actors work together to analyze and improve health-related work processes and structures. The results have a positive impact on three levels: employees are healthier and feel better, businesses benefit from motivated and productive employees, and at a national level it contributes to economic benefits.

The funding priorities for pilot projects to introduce and establish BGF in businesses include promoting health equity, gender and psychosocial health, and healthy leadership. The practical guide “Faire Gesundheitschancen im Betrieb” offers support. Projects that address current challenges in the areas of climate change and demographic development, as well as changes in the workplace brought on by digitalization and increased flexibility (accelerated by the COVID-19 pandemic), are particularly eligible for funding.

Building on the pilot phase, the FGÖ supports the integration of BGF into the regular business operations through sustainability projects. The FGÖ has been focusing on the “Work 4.0” theme since 2018, supporting innovative approaches that address the new challenges brought on by the increasingly digital, flexible, and boundary-less working world (accentuated by the COVID-19 pandemic). Interested businesses have access to practical examples and further assistance.

The combination of BGF and active mobility, or betriebliches Mobilitätsmanagement (BMM), is a forward-thinking approach that can contribute to both employee health and climate protection by reducing emissions. Projects within this funding priority can focus on developing quality-assured processes and measures to promote health and mobility.

Sociale Regeneratie voor Werk Vanuit Huis Ouders

Gregory Clare

The article discusses the challenges faced by working parents who are trying to balance work and home life while working from home. It emphasizes the importance of employers supporting working parents to find a healthy balance by offering flexible work hours, alternating between working from home and working in the office, providing on-site childcare facilities, or allowing parents to take leave when necessary. The author also suggests that social regeneration can play a crucial role in creating a supportive environment for working parents by providing support groups, after-school programs, and community events that bring families together and provide access to resources and services. Additionally, the article touches upon the benefits and challenges of working from home for working parents, and the need for subsidies or tax benefits for those who need extra support. Overall, the article emphasizes the importance of supporting working parents in finding a healthy balance between work and home life, not only for their well-being but for the benefit of society as a whole.

Het is belangrijk om te erkennen dat niet alle werkende ouders in staat zijn om succesvol thuis te werken en een goede balans te vinden tussen werk en privé. Het kan een enorme uitdaging zijn om te jongleren met werk, kinderopvang en het onderhouden van een huishouden, allemaal vanuit dezelfde fysieke ruimte. Bovendien kan het gevoel van isolatie en eenzaamheid dat gepaard gaat met het werken vanuit huis, zorgen voor extra stress en een verminderd gevoel van welzijn.

Het is daarom belangrijk dat werkgevers begrip tonen voor de uitdagingen die werkende ouders kunnen ervaren en hen ondersteunen bij het vinden van een goede balans tussen werk en privé. Dit kan bijvoorbeeld worden bereikt door flexibele werktijden aan te bieden, de mogelijkheid om thuis te werken af te wisselen met werken op kantoor, kinderopvangfaciliteiten op de werkplek aan te bieden, of door ouders in staat te stellen om verlof op te nemen wanneer dat nodig is.

Door werkende ouders te ondersteunen, kunnen werkgevers niet alleen het welzijn van hun werknemers verbeteren, maar ook bijdragen aan een gezondere en productievere samenleving. En het is niet alleen aan werkgevers - als samenleving moeten we erkennen dat werkende ouders een belangrijke rol spelen in de maatschappij en hen ondersteunen bij het vinden van een gezonde balans tussen werk en privé is van cruciaal belang voor ons allemaal.

SOCIALE REGENERATIE VOOR DE WERKENDE OUDER

Indien de term 'sociale regeneratie' nieuw voor u is, kan ik een korte beschrijving geven. Dit concept heeft betrekking op het aanpakken van maatschappelijke problemen, zoals armoede, ongelijkheid en sociale uitsluiting, en het streven naar een meer cohesieve en inclusieve samenleving. Voor werkende ouders speelt sociale regeneratie een belangrijke rol bij het creëren van een ondersteunende omgeving waardoor zij werk en gezinstaken beter in balans kunnen brengen. Dit kan bijvoorbeeld worden bereikt door middel van steungroepen voor ouders, naschoolse programma's en gemeenschapsevenementen die gezinnen samenbrengen en toegang bieden tot middelen en diensten.

Echter, persoonlijk geef ik niet de voorkeur aan sociale interacties en zou ik meer baat hebben bij betaalbare kinderopvang van hoge kwaliteit en gezinsvriendelijke werkplekken. Hoewel velen van u momenteel vanuit huis werken en uw kantoor zo gezinsvriendelijk kunnen maken als u wilt, zijn flexibele werkregelingen en betaald ouderschapsverlof andere maatregelen die kunnen helpen om de stress en financiële druk van het ouderschap te verminderen.

THUISWERKEN VOOR DE WERKENDE OUDER

De afgelopen drie jaar hebben geleid tot hogere kosten voor levensonderhoud, waardoor de voordelen van thuiswerken voor gezinnen gedeeltelijk worden tenietgedaan. Hoewel sommige werkgevers een thuiswerkvergoeding bieden, is deze vaak niet voldoende om de extra kosten te dekken die gepaard gaan met meer tijd binnenshuis doorbrengen. Elektriciteitskosten zijn bijvoorbeeld aanzienlijk hoger en er is ook sprake van langdurige slijtage aan het huis en interieur.

Wat betreft de voordelen van thuiswerken voor werkende ouders zijn er niet veel duidelijke verschillen ten opzichte van niet-ouders. Flexibiliteit in de werkroosters is een belangrijk voordeel, waardoor ouders werk en gezin beter in balans kunnen houden. Echter, de vaagheid van de grenzen tussen werk en privé kan een gevoel van urgentie creëren voor beide aspecten van het leven.

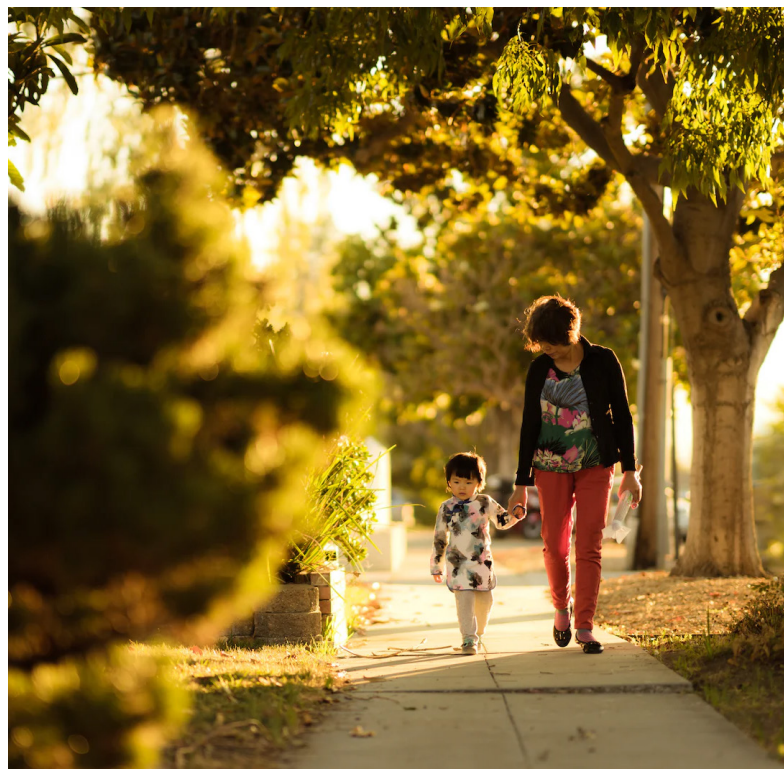
Als je van je carrière houdt, kan thuiswerken echter een gevoel van isolatie en eenzaamheid veroorzaken door het gebrek aan sociale interactie en ondersteuning van collega's.

HOE ZIT HET MET SUBSIDIES?

Het ontwikkelen van projectmatige subsidies voor dit onderwerp is lastiger, aangezien het meer geschikt is voor individuele oplossingen en op maat gemaakte subsidies of belastingvoordelen voor werkende ouders in een dergelijke positie.

Het is belangrijk om te erkennen dat niet alle werkgevers de middelen hebben om flexibele werkregelingen of kinderopvangfaciliteiten aan te bieden. Kleine bedrijven kunnen bijvoorbeeld moeite hebben om deze faciliteiten te bieden vanwege hun beperkte middelen. Bovendien kunnen sommige werkgevers zich niet veroorloven om hun werknemers betaald ouderschapsverlof aan te bieden. Het is belangrijk om te beseffen dat werkgevers zich ook moeten aanpassen aan de huidige economische realiteit, en dat het niet altijd mogelijk is om alle voordelen te bieden die werknemers nodig hebben.

Het aanbieden van steungroepen voor ouders, naschoolse programma's en gemeenschapsevenementen kan duur zijn en niet alle gemeenschappen hebben de middelen om dergelijke programma's te ondersteunen. Het kan ook zijn dat sommige ouders niet willen deelnemen aan deze activiteiten vanwege de tijd en het engagement dat ze vereisen. Het is belangrijk om te beseffen dat niet alle ouders dezelfde behoeften hebben en dat er verschillende oplossingen nodig zijn om aan verschillende behoeften te voldoen.



Thuiswerken kan gepaard gaan met technische problemen, zoals slechte internetverbindingen en een gebrek aan toegang tot de nieuwste technologieën. Dit kan het werk van ouders belemmeren en hun stressniveau verhogen. Bovendien kan het werken vanuit huis ook leiden tot een gebrek aan focus en productiviteit, vooral als er kinderen in huis zijn die aandacht nodig hebben. Het is belangrijk om te beseffen dat thuiswerken niet voor iedereen de beste optie is en dat sommige werkende ouders beter af zijn op kantoor, waar ze zich kunnen concentreren op hun werk.

Om sociale regeneratie te bevorderen, is het belangrijk om een ondersteunende omgeving te creëren waarin werkende ouders kunnen profiteren van betaalbare kinderopvang van hoge kwaliteit en gezinsvriendelijke werkplekken, flexibele werkregelingen en betaald ouderschapsverlof. Dit kan helpen de stress en financiële druk van het ouderschap te verminderen en ouders in staat stellen om meer kwaliteitstijd door te brengen met hun kinderen en deel te nemen aan gemeenschapsactiviteiten. Het is ook essentieel om rekening te houden met de kosten die gepaard gaan met thuiswerken, zoals elektriciteitskosten en slijtage aan het huis, en om ervoor te zorgen dat werkende ouders de middelen hebben om deze kosten te dekken.

EU Programme Snapshot

Italy – Equality in Health National Programme 2021-2027



SUMMARY

The programme aims to:

- Improve equal and timely access to quality, sustainable, and affordable services, including services that promote access to housing and person-centered care
- Modernize social protection systems
- Address mental health
- Provide gender-sensitive care
- Strengthen oncological screening

The Programme is funded through the EU Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and targeted to seven Italian regions in the Center-South: Basilicata, Calabria, Campania, Molise, Puglia, Sardinia, and Sicily

BUDGET

The total budget available for 2021-2027 is 625,000,000 €, 250.000.000 € through the EU Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and 375.000.000 € through ESF +

FOR MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.pnrr.salute.gov.it/portale/rapportilnazionali/dettaglioContenutiRapportilnazionali.jsp?lingua=italiano&id=5797&area=rapporti&menu=programmi>

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